

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01309 131542Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 INR-10 NSC-05 /042 W
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R 130654Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 742

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ICJ, MA
SUBJECT: CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REF: STATE 173735

1. AS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT EDELBERT
RAZAFINDRALAMBO IS AT THE APEX OF THE MALAGASY LEGAL PROFESSION,
HIS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND COMPETENCE ARE RECOGNIZED
AS OUTSTANDING AND HIS INTEGRITY IS NOT QUESTIONED.
HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION OF
HIS WORTH AND THIS HAS MADE HIM DIFFICULT TO GET ALONG
WITH FOR SOME COLLEAGUES AND SUBORDINATES. HE HAS LONG
ASPIRED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AND IT IS SAID THAT
ONE OF THE REASONS PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WILLING
TO NOMINATE HIM IS TO VACATE HIS POSITION, WHICH,
ACCORDING TO THE 1975 CONSTITUTION, WOULD THEN
BE FILLED BY A PERSON ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
THIS WOULD GIVE THE REGIME A CHANCE TO REPLACE
THIS HIGHLAND MERINA ELITIST WITH A JUDGE MORE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE COASTAL LOWLANDERS WHO DOMINATE
THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. I DON'T THINK OUR STAND ON THE MALAGASY NOMINEE
WILL AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ONE WAY OF THE
OTHER. U.S. PREFERENCE FOR ANOTHER AFRICAN NOMINEE,
SUCH AS EGYPTIAN, WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD
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HERE.BARRETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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